## **CLAIMS**

## What is claimed is:

1. In a wireless cellular communication system comprising a base station
2 and at least one repeater communicating over a wireless backhaul link for
3 communicating with a plurality of mobile subscribers, a method for improved
4 backhaul efficiency, comprising the steps of:

dynamically assigning for said backhaul link at least one packet channel for transmission of selected packets on a backhaul signal for a subscriber, said at least one packet channel comprising at least an RF frequency and a channel definition; and

transmitting said selected packets on said at least one packet channel between said at least one repeater and said base station.

- 2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of performing said assigning step in response to a request for communicating over said backhaul signal for one of said plurality of mobile subscribers.
- The method according to claim 2, wherein said request include
   a priority field.

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- 1 (4.) The method according to claim 3, further comprising a comparing step
- 2 wherein said data priority fields are compared to determine whether to terminate
- 3 transmission of a lower priority transmission to allow transmission of a higher
- 4 priority transmission.
  - 5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of
- 2 dynamically reassigning at least a portion of said assigned packet channel for
- 3 transmission of a second backhaul signal.
- 1 6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said channel definition
- 2 includes a set of parameters which define said packet channel, said parameters
- 3 comprising at least one of:
  - a. a number of said selected packets which can be sent over said
- 5 assigned packet channel; and
- 6 b. a number frames allocated for transmission of said selected
- 7 packets.
- 1 7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said channel definition
- 2 further includes an identified time for transmission of said selected packets.

- 1 8. The method according to claim 6, wherein said backhaul signal
- 2 comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of user traffic and
- 3 control data.
  - 9. The method according to claim's wherein said user traffic is comprised of voice traffic.
- 1 10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said packets are
  2 transmitted over said backhaul link using a higher order modulation as compared to
  3 a ground link between said at least one repeater and said subscriber.
- 1 11. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of converting between a packet based backhaul signal and a non-packet based ground link signal.
- 1 12. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one repeater
  2 comprises a plurality of repeaters, wherein one of said at least one packet channel
- 3 is used to transmit packets between multiple repeaters selected from said plurality
- 4 of repeaters and said base station.

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- 1 13. In a wireless cellular communication system comprising a base station
- and a repeater communicating over a wireless backhaul link for communicating
- 3 with a plurality of mobile subscribers, a system for improved backhaul efficiency,
- 4 comprising:

a structure for dynamically assigning for said backhaul link at least one packet channel for transmission of selected packets on a backhaul signal for a subscriber, said at least one packet channel comprising at least an RF frequency and a channel definition; and

structure for transmitting said selected packets on said at least one packet channel between said repeater and said base station.

- 14. The system according to claim 1, further comprising a structure for performing said assigning step in response to a request for communicating over said backhaul signal for one of said plurality of mobile subscribers.
- 1 15. The system according to claim 14, wherein said request include a data 2 priority field.

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- The system according to claim 15, further comprising a structure for 1 16. comparing wherein said data priority fields are compared to determine whether to 2 terminate transmission of a lower priority transmission to allow transmission of a 3 4 higher priority transmission.
  - The system according to claim 13, further comprising a structure for 17. dynamically reassigning at least a portion of said assigned packet channel for transmission of a second backhaul signal.
  - 18. The system according to claim 13, wherein said channel definition includes a set of parameters which define said packet channel, said parameters comprising at least one of:
  - a number of said selected packets which can be sent over said a. assigned packet channel; and
- a number frames allocated for transmission of said selected 6 b. 7 packets.
- 19. The system according to claim 18, wherein said channel definition 2 further includes an identified time for transmission of said selected packets.

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- 1 20. The system according to claim 18, wherein said backhaul signal
- 2 comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of user traffic and
- 3 control data.
  - 21. The system according to claim 20, wherein said user traffic is comprised of voice traffic.
  - 22. The system according to claim 13, further comprising a structure for transmitting said packets over said backhaul link using a higher order modulation as compared to a ground link signal between said at least one repeater and said subscriber.
  - 23. The system according to claim 13, further comprising a structure for converting between a packet based backhaul signal and a non-packet based ground link signal.
- 1 24. The system according to claim 13, wherein\said at least one repeater
- 2 comprises a plurality of repeaters, wherein said structure for transmitting said
- 3 selected packets on one of said at least one packet channel is used to support
- 4 communications between multiple repeaters selected from said plurality of
- 5 repeaters and said base station.